



"The Clinton Independent"

1983

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Happy Sesquicentennial - DeWitt

DeWitt's Sesquicentennial celebration Oct. 4-8 will be a mixed bag with a number of activities in Riverfront Park and other sites.

Even the Clinton County Historical Society will get into the act. Instead of a meeting this month CCHS will help DeWitt celebrate by holding our Babcock (auto) Tour on Oct. 8 and on the same day we'll dedicate a monument on the grave of Eunice Forbes Scott, wife of Capt. David Scott, who is buried in DeWitt Cemetery.

President Betty Moore said the Babcock Tour will originate at the parking lot at Rodney B. Wilson Junior High School in St. Johns and depart from there at 10:45 a.m.

"Old cars, new cars, in between cars. Everyone is invited. Bring a picnic lunch as we will stop off someplace en route for lunch," she said.

Moore said the tour will go down M-21 to Shepardsville Road, look at a historic marker there that honors the Rushers, the first football team in this area; then south down Shepardsville Road to Round L Road (this is the route early settlers used as they came along the Grand River Trail to settle Clinton); then west on Round L Road to DeWitt.

In The News

DeWitt



Time Capsule

DeWitt residents left bequests in a time capsule which will be buried as part of their 150th birthday celebration. The artifacts, contributed by families and school children, will be entombed in the South West corner of the DeWitt Cemetery at the close of Sesquicentennial Week. Packed inside were messages from 1983 residents to those who will open the capsule in 2033.

DeWitt - Activity Schedule

TUESDAY, OCT. 4, 7 p.m.

Founding Day Ceremonies
Time Capsule Dedication -
Civil War Skirmish
All at Riverfront Park

THURSDAY, OCT. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Sesquicentennial Choir
Presentation of Awards to
Contest Winners
All at DeWitt High School

FRIDAY, OCT. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Blue Grass Band Concert
Candlelight River Ceremony
All at Riverfront Park

SATURDAY, OCT. 8, 2 p.m.

Dedication of monument to
Mrs. David Scott at her grave
site in DeWitt Cemetery

11 a.m. Scott Family reunion
at Riverfront Park

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. DeWitt
Historic Home Tour

4-8 p.m. DeWitt Lions Club
Chicken BBQ at Memorial Bldg.

9 p.m. DeWitt City Fire Dept.
Fireworks at Riverfront Park

COMING UP

early settlers used as a road along the Grand River Trail to settle Clinton); then west on Round L Road to DeWitt.

She said the "pace will be set by the oldest-slowest car. The group will arrive at DeWitt in time for the 2 p.m. dedication of the Scott marker.

"In 1933 the Pioneer Society (forerunner of CCHS) honored David Scott by marking his grave. This marker to Mrs. Scott will honor all pioneer women who brought the ways of the East to Clinton," she said.

Moore also said that Ken Coin, a CCHS member, has completed his series of books on DeWitt and they will be sold during the event with the 12 booklets, softbound, selling for \$2 each or \$20 for the set. Each booklet covers a different phase of DeWitt history. Proceeds go to benefit the Faye Hansen Memorial Library at DeWitt. (Hansen was a member of CCHS prior to her death and did much to promote interest in Clinton history, and she was active in the DeWitt area, serving as librarian for many years there.)



Packed inside were messages from 1983 residents to those who will open the capsule in 2033. DeWitt school children wrote letters on perma life paper and families and groups purchased envelopes for their letters.

In The News

Two historic structures in St. Johns are in need of repair. In recent weeks a "Buy A Brick" drive has started to raise funds to repair the bell tower of St. John's Episcopal Church which has fallen on hard times because of a dwindling congregation now numbering less than 50. Estimates to repair the tower, depending on work needed, range from \$8,000 to \$25,000. The English Gothic structure replaced a wooden building that burned just 30 minutes after Easter services ended in 1892. The congregation had just paid off its mortgage.

The St. Johns Cemetery Association is trying to raise money to repair the mausoleum in Mt. Rest Cemetery. Built in 1920, an endowment fund established then has run dry.

Mail donations for the bell tower to the church on E. Walker Street, St. Johns. For the mausoleum mail to St. Johns Cemetery Association, c/o Linda Gilson, Rt. 1, St. Johns, 48879

COMING UP

"BRING A FRIEND!"

To DeWitt's Sesquicentennial - See schedule of activities above in this column.

OCTOBER 3 Genealogists meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Archives, one block south of the U.S. 27-State Road intersection in DeWitt Township office building. Bring razor knife or scissors to make cases for periodicals; boxes 10"x14"x5" and contact paper if possible.

NOVEMBER 7 Genealogists meet at Capital Savings and Loan in St. Johns at 7:30.

NOVEMBER 17 CCHS meets at Capital Savings & Loan in St. Johns at 7:30 to honor World War II veterans. Wally Watts is chairing this program and contacting veteran groups to invite them to participate.



FALL IS HERE

QUIZ

What happened on October 8, 1871 in Chicago? See next page for answer.

Meet the people

THEY CAME TO CLINTON COUNTY MICH.

FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS FROM THE MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE AND PROVIDE BY FREDA BOLLINGER GREAT GRAND-DAUGHTER OF LUCRETIA CULVER BOUGHTON OF RILEY TWP.
DATED MARCH 22, 1902 VOL. 28 NO. 12

MRS LUCRETIA CULVER BOUGHTON, OF ALMA

ANOTHER OF OUR AGED MEMBERS, WHOSE LIKENESS WAS AWAITING ITS TURN IN OUR SERIES, HAS PASSED AWAY. MRS. BOUGHTON DIED NEAR ALMA, FEB. 11. SHE WAS BORN IN PUTNEYVILLE, N. Y., IN 1818. HER GRANDMOTHER, LUCRETIA STUART, FOR WHOM SHE WAS NAMED, WAS A NEAR RELATIVE OF GEN. HANCOCK, ONE OF THE HEROES OF THE REVOLUTION, AND HER HUSBAND, ASA STUART, WAS ALSO A SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION, AND A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE HOUSE OF STUARTS OF SCOTLAND. AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-FIVE SHE WAS UNITED IN MARRIAGE TO MORRIS BOUGHTON, AFTER A COURTSHIP OF NINE YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME HE WAS PREPARING A HOME FOR THEM IN THE WILDS OF MICH. THEY BEGAN THEIR PIONEER LIFE TOGETHER ON A FARM IN CLINTON CO., WHERE HE OWNED 300 ACRES, WHICH HE HAD PARTIALLY CLEARED AND ON WHICH HE HAD BUILT A COMMODIOUS LOG HOUSE. HERE THEY ERECTED A FAMILY ALTAR. NOT LONG AFTERWARD THEY INVITED THE METHODIST MINISTER TO HOLD SERVICES AT THEIR HOUSE ON SUNDAYS. A FEW NEIGHBORS GATHERED & A SMALL CLASS OF SIX OR SEVEN WAS FORMED. A YEAR LATER A SCHOOLHOUSE WAS BUILT, MR. BOUGHTON DONATING THE LAND. HERE THE MEMBERSHIP INCREASED UNTIL A LARGE AND PROSPEROUS CHURCH GREW UP AROUND THEM. IN THOSE DAYS THE CIRCUIT EXTENDED OVER MANY MILES OF TERRITORY, THE PREACHERS USUALLY MAKING THEIR JOURNEYS TO THE DIFFERENT CHARGES ON HORSEBACK. NOWHERE IN THAT NEW COUNTRY DID THEY FIND A WARMER WELCOME OR FREER ENTERTAINMENT THAN AT BROTHER AND SISTER BOUGHTON'S. IN COURSE OF TIME NINE CHILDREN CAME TO BLESS THERE HOME. THE LOG HOUSE GAVE PLACE TO A LARGE, BEAUTIFUL HOME, BUT IT WAS THE SAME IN HOSPITALITY. THE DOORS WERE OPEN FOR



... Queries ...

Anyone who has connections to: Goldthwaite/Goolthrite or Crowner families who settled in Carson City - Hubbardston areas, please contact Steve Potts, 520 Strait Ave., Worthington, Mn. 56187.

Will descendants of Abigail Corbin Peck & Arthur Jr. & Flora Nelson who are buried in the Boughton Cemetery in Riley Township please write me. I'm a descendant of Abigail & Andrew Nelson, Sr.; Freda (Nelson) Bollinger, 1798A Kirkland Rd., Covington, Ga. 30209.

NEWS and NOTES

THEIR LOCATION BY THE HOUSE OF THE NINE CHIMNEYS. HE CAME TO SETTLE THERE HOME. THE LOG HOUSE GAVE PLACE TO A LARGE, BEAUTIFUL HOME, BUT IT WAS THE SAME IN HOSPITALITY. THE DOORS WERE OPEN FOR CHURCH GATHERINGS AND TO THE FAMILIES OF THE MINISTERS. BUT NOT TO THE CHURCH ALONE WAS THEIR HOSPITALITY EXTENDED. THE EARLY SETTLERS. THE BENIGHTED TRAVELER ALWAYS FOUND A WELCOME BENEATH THEIR ROOF, AND GOOD CHEER TO HELP THEM ON THEIR WAY. FEW MEN IN PRIVATE LIFE HAD THE LOVE OR WERE MORE DEEPLY MOURNED THAN MR. BOUGHTON, WHO DIED IN THE 64 YEAR OF HIS AGE, 1876. IT WAS A SAD DAY FOR THE WIFE AND CHILDREN WHEN HE WAS LAID TO REST IN THE QUIET CEMETERY ON THEIR FARM BY LOVING HANDS, SURROUNDED BY ALL THE OLD NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.

A FEW YEARS LATER MRS. BOUGHTON MOVED TO ALMA, MICH., WHERE HER DEATH OCCURRED AT HER DAUGHTERS. OF HER NINE CHILDREN SIX ARE NOW LIVING, A SON AND DAUGHTER HAVING DIED DURING THE PRESENT YEAR. HER REMAINS WERE TENDERLY BORNE TO THE OLD HOME, WHERE THEY LIE BESIDE THE HUSBAND OF HER YOUTH.

NOTE: ENTIRE ARTICLE CAN BE VIEWED AT THE CLINTON COUNTY ARCHIVES ON BROOK RD DEWITT, MI. THE BOUGHTON CEMETERY AND HOME WHICH STILL STANDS ARE ON DEXTER TRAIL, RILEY TOWNSHIP., J. M. SNYDER

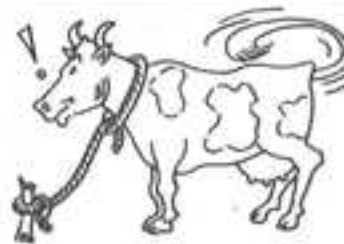
The town of Windsor, Ct., celebrated its 350th anniversary Sept. 24 with a program held at the monument honoring those who came on the Mary & John and established the first continuing settlement in Windsor. A list of these ancestral heads of Windsor, Ct., can be viewed at the Archives in DeWitt.

We have the 1910 census for many Michigan counties at the Archives now.

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS: We are badly in need of volunteers to work at the Archives, especially on Wednesday from 5-9 p.m. Call Arlene Lounds or Janet Snyder if you can help us out.

Quiz Answer

October 8, 1871 Mrs. O'Leary's cow starts the great Chicago fire.



IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP PAID?



Clinton County Historical Society



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Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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